

Over There

MARINES

In recent weeks attention has focused on Fallujah and areas south of Baghdad as Marines, soldiers and Iraqi forces battle insurgents to reclaim these areas. Marines patrol these battle-scarred streets, fight fires and celebrate the Corps' 229th birthday. Next door in Kuwait, Marines train and acclimatize for duty in Iraq. Marines are also training in South Korea and Chad. In Cuba, Marines remember and honor past battles from World War II. Infantry Marines and service support Marines continue to sharpen their skills in preparation for dangerous assignments Over There.



Gimpo Peninsula, South Korea

Marines navigate through the early morning mist hanging over Yama River. The Marines, with A Co., 9th Engineer Support Bn., 3rd FSSG, operated the improved ribbon bridge raft during a bridging exercise here Oct. 15 as part of the Korean Incremental Training Program 05-1. Marines assisted Republic of Korea armed forces transporting heavy equipment across the river, manning one IRB raft and three bridge erecting boats.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Christa A. Bridges

Fallujah, Iraq

Marines from E Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Marines, are on foot-patrol on a key route near Fallujah July 17. The unit provides a constant watch along the route keeping would-be attackers at bay, which allows military personnel running convoys to breathe easier when on the route.

Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen



Camp Taqaddum, Iraq

Marines with 2nd Bn., 10th Marines, an artillery battalion from MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., mass around the birthday cake following a ceremony honoring the 229th Marine Corps birthday Nov. 10. Celebrating the Marine Corps' birthday while serving in the Global War on Terrorism had a special meaning to some Marines here. "This is what we as Marines do and it is also where the American people expect us to be," said Capt. Amy B. Alger, a 37-year-old native of Hershey, Penn., and executive officer for Headquarters and Service Bn., 1st FSSG.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caleb W. Sparks





Camp Asad, Iraq

Lance Cpl. Matthew D. Richerd, a firefighter with MWSS-273, sprays water on hot burning coals from a fire here, July 7. The inferno ruined a total of ten tents and burned the belongings of more than 100 Marines just days before they were slated to return to the United States. There were no injuries or fatalities and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Photo by Sgt. Jose L. Garcia



Camp Virginia, Kuwait

Marines, with LAR Plt., Weapons Co., 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, part of the 24th MEU, raise a large inflated tire to the top of their light armored vehicle July 12. The tire is a reserve to be used in case of a flat. The MEU has arrived in Kuwait to begin acclimatization and further training before departing for Iraq. Marines from each of the MEU's major subordinate elements ensured their vehicles and Marines are prepared to face the dangers involved with conducting convoys in Iraq.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers



Chad

Marines supervise Chadian soldiers as they practice maintenance on their AK-47 assault rifles June 22. The Marines are part of a team of Marines and Sailors with Marine Corps Forces Europe, Marine Corps Forces Atlantic, and II MEF who are training the soldiers in individual- through company-level infantry skills. The training is part of a State Department initiative to reduce the flow of illicit arms, goods and people through Chad's borders and deny safe havens to terrorists.

Photo by Cpl. Lameen Witter



Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Marines and sailors, with 7th Plt., 1st Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team, stormed the beaches here June 23 in a reenactment of 2nd Marine Division's historic assault of Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, in November 1943 during World War II. "The whole event gave me the idea of the extremes those Marines endured; no sleep, little in the way of food or water, it was intense and I loved every second of it!" said Lance Cpl. John Steele, rifleman, 3rd Squad, of the reenactment.

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Terry Matlock

